

## Dental Day in Gawad Kalinga

February celebrates not only Valentine's Day but also Dental Days. This great event happened in 2019 in Gawad Kalinga (GK) Hope Village, which is in the remote area of Negros Island in the Philippines. Almost 400 followers, students and teenagers celebrated with great motivation and enthusiasm.

This outreach was in large thanks to the support of ICD Section V Europe, as well as the efforts, time, energy and professional work of Fellow Dr. Farr from Vienna, who enabled free dental services in GK Hope Village. In addition to dental services, Dr. Farr provided continuous preventive measures and education for the development and promotion of oral disease prevention.

Since the beginning of the project, eight years ago, the oral hygienic situation and the attitude to dental treatment has greatly improved in this area. All medical, dental and informative materials and instructions are very essential for the education and benefit of GK inhabitants. Even small children are now very motivated to promote preventive dental care.

On this occasion, teachers were taught extensively about the anatomy of oral cavity, tooth structure and decay risk factors, healthy food habits, proper cleaning techniques and regular dental check-ups. Fellow Farr provided the school not only with informative material, brochures and instructions, but also with many helpful dental hygienic articles. Students and teenagers received dental kits, consisting of toothpaste and toothbrushes, as a donation from ICD Europe and ICD Austria.

Since the school is growing, the infrastructures are limited with a lack of domestic facilities. The hygienic corner, implemented in 2015, is not sufficient enough to cover needs. A second hygienic corner will be implemented this year, with generous support of ICD Europe.

The project of Gawad Kalinga Hope Village was inspired by the "Caries prophylaxis program Apollonia 2020", which has been implemented in all schools and kindergartens in lower Austria for over 20 years. Since the course and development of the GK Hope Village project has had positive results, Dr. Farr made a proposal to the school and GK administration to integrate dental preventive measures in the school program to become a part of the school educational schedule. The proposal has shown great acceptance and will be taken into consideration.



**Fellow Hani Farr stands with children after they receive their dental supplies at Dental Day in GK Village, Philippines, last year.**